

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: AP STORY 5/21 - INTERVIEW WITH AMB. RICHARDSON

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH

FOLLOWING AP TICKER SENT PER MR.BREMER.

QUOTE AMBASSADOR ELLIOT RICHARDSON SAYS CHINA'S LEADERS
WANT THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ASIA
INDEFINITELY TO HEAD OFF SOVIET DOMINATION OF THE
REGION.

'I DON'T THINK THE CHINESE WOULD WANT TO SEE ANY ABRUPT
SHIFTS IN ASIA FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE,' THE U.S. ENVOY
TO BRITAIN SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

'THE CHINESE HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF A
MAJOR U.S. ROLE TOWARD THE REST OF THE WORLD, IF ONLY
BECAUSE CHINESE SECURITY TO A DEGREE DEPENDS ON A
CONTINUING AMERICAN COUNTERVAILING ROLE AGAINST THE SOVIET
UNION.'

AS FOR THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, RICHARDSON SAID PRESIDENT
FORD 'HAD VERY LITTLE CHOICE' IN USING FORCE TO FREE THE
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MERCHANT SHIP FROM THE KHMER ROUGE OF CAMBODIA.

THE INCIDENT, HE ADDED, ALSO SERVED NOTICE IN THE WAKE OF THE AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA THAT THERE IS NO

'PARALYSIS OF WILL' ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

ASKED ABOUT CRITICISM OF FORD'S DECISION THAT THE U.S. RESPONSE AMOUNTED TO GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY, THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED: 'THIS WAS A SITUATION IN WHICH DIPLOMACY EVIDENTLY HAD FAILED. IT LEFT THE UNITED STATES WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO REACT THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE TO AN ACTION WHICH, IN ITSELF, INVOLVED FORCE.'

AS FOR THE U.S. ALLIES IN EUROPE, RICHARDSON STRESSED HE HAS NOT DETECTED ANY BASIC PROBLEM OF CREDIBILITY IN RELYING ON AMERICA.

'EUROPE HAS PERCEIVED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL, LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE MUCH MORE INSEPARABLE FROM THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF EUROPE THAN THE FACTORS WHICH LED TO OUR INITIAL INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,' RICHARDSON SAID.

HE SAID HE EXPECTS PRESIDENT FORD TO URGE MUCH CLOSER COOPERATIONS BETWEEN AMERICAN, EUROPE AND JAPAN WHEN LEADERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEET IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, MAY 29-30.

'OUR VITAL LONG-TERM INTERESTS DEPEND UPON THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATO AND JAPAN,' HE SAID.

'THOSE RELATIONSHIPS UNDER EXISTING TREATIES ARE INSEPARABLY LINKED WITH THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES ITSELF.'

REFERRING TO ASIA AND PRESIDENT FORD'S PROJECTED VISIT THIS SUMMER TO PEKING, RICHARDSON SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT 'WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANY CHANGE IN RESPECT OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND AUTONOMY OF TAIWAN,' THE NATIONALIST CHINESE ISLAND, UNLESS IT CAME THROUGH 'SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENT.' THE CHINESE, HE ADDED, MIGHT WELL RAISE THE ISSUE WITH FORD 'WITHOUT NECESSARILY LEADING TO ANY SHORT -TERM CHANGE.' HE MAINTAINED THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED IN PEKING -- 'CULTURAL EXCHANGES, TRADE AND SO ON.' END QUOTE

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